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The following is an article which appeared in the 28 April 1949 issue of the CIP\* bulletin published in Italy; it is transmitted hereunder for whatever informational value it might have for you:

"It has been reported that, during the period January-March 1949, Soviet Russia has carried six shipments of raw petroleum from Batum to Vlone. As a result of these Soviet shipments, there are presently stored in Vlone very large quantities of Soviet raw petroleum, estimated at around 40,000 tons, i.e., the full storage capacity of the port of Vlone.

"Since there are no important refineries in Albania, and since the raw petroleum cannot be used in its present unrefined state (the CIP article rejected the possibility of having the fuel refined in Bari or Trieste as being unfeasible), it is a question as to what the Soviets and the Albanians intend to do with this raw petroleum. The inference is that a supply of raw petroleum is being amassed in Vlone until such time as the Soviet-Albanians are able to take possession of Fiume, where the former Italian large refineries of the ROMSA are located. Such an inference is in keeping with that school of thought which foresees in the immediate future large-scale Soviet operations against Yugoslavia."

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Comment: The CIP - "Centro Informazioni Pro-Deo" - is the news agency of the world-wide Roman Catholic Pro-Deo movement. The above item appeared in the "confidential" bulletin published by CIP, which is merely a type of newsletter with a slightly more limited distribution.

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